REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's continued thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Asma ("Van Asma," U.S. Patent No. 6,897,902, as applied in previous Office Action) in view of Gonzalez ("Gonzalez," "Digital Image Processing" - Second Edition - 2002 - pages 57-59 and 64-66, as applied in previous Office Action). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states "the broadest reasonable claim language interpretation <u>never specifies</u> that the elimination of every other pixel is <u>only for the R and B component</u>" in the main scanning direction of the image. Applicants disagree.

Claim 1 recites "a data processing module that compresses the generated RGB image data to G-R/B image data." The Examiner is respectfully directed to paragraph [0034] of applicants' disclosure that states:

> The data corresponding to two adjoining pixels are accordingly 32-bit data of R1, G1, B1, and G2. Tentative division of this 32-bit data into a combination of (G1, R1) components for the first pixel and a combination of (G2, B1) components for the second pixel gives 16-bit image data (hereafter referred to as the G-R/B image data) with regard to each of the two pixels.

Thus, applicants' claimed "G-R/B image data" provide (G1, R1) components for a first pixel, and (G2, B1) components for the second pixel. It is unequivocal and clearly specific that applicants' claimed G-R/B image data regards elimination of only the R or B component (never the G component) in the main scanning direction of the image. The Examiner's language interpretation that includes elimination of "each R, G and B components" is inaccurate and clearly outside the scope of the claims. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants' claim 1, as previously presented, defines a data processing module that "compresses generated RGB image data" taken by a "shooting device" to "G-R/B image data." The compression occurs by eliminating either an "R component" and a "B component" among the "R, G, and B components included in the RGB image data of each pixel, with regard to every other pixel in a main scanning direction of the image." As noted above, applicants' compression technique generates "G-R/B image data," and R and B components of every other pixel in a main

scanning range are eliminated, while all G components are left unaffected. Further, a "storage module" having a "data bus" stores the compressed image data and a "data conversion module" uses the stored data to "interpolate" the eliminated R component and B component, thereby converting the image data into "reproduced RGB image data including all of the R, G, and B components with regard to each pixel."

The prior art, including the combination of Van Asma and Gonzales, does not teach or suggest this combination of features.

Van Asma is directed to a plurality of image resizing techniques, for example to "upscale" or "downscale" an input signal to fit a respective display resolution. Van Asma does not teach or suggest applicants' claim 1 data processing module that provides "G-R/B image data of a compressed data volume by elimination of an R component and a B component, with regard to every other pixel in a main scanning direction of the image." Instead, Van Asma resizes input data and performs correction on "output data signal geometrically." Van Asma does not eliminate an R component and a B component in every other pixel in a main scanning direction. Accordingly, Van Asma does not teach or suggest applicants' claimed "conversion module" operable to convert the image data into reproduced RGB data that includes all of the R, G and B components in each pixel.

Accordingly, the Examiner cites to Gonzalez for teaching applicants' claim 1 data processing module that compresses "generated RGB image data to G-R/B image data of a compressed data volume by elimination of an R component and a B component." Gonzalez, however, does not teach or suggest applicants' claimed data processing module and data conversion module that are missing from the teachings of Van Asma. Instead, Gonzalez teaches data compression as a function of pixel skipping, or data compression/augmentation by a bicubicle method. This is patentably distinct from applicants' claimed processing of G-R/B image data storage for preventing deterioration of picture quality.

Therefore and for foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Van Asma and Gonzalez do not teach or suggest the combination of feature defined in claim 1, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 3 includes substantially all of the same features as defined in claim 1, and is patentable for the same reasons.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Asma as

modified by Gonzalez as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Garlick et al. ("Garlick," U.S. Patent No. 6,614,448, as applied in previous Office Action). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.
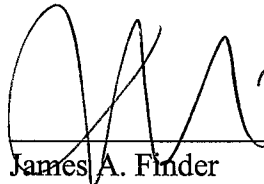
Applicants' claim 2, which depends directly from claim 1, further defines that the data bus has a width that is $(3+n)^{th}$ power of 2 bits. The Examiner cites to Garlick for allegedly disclosing that feature. Applicants submit, however, that Garlick does not provide the features of claim 2 that are missing from the teachings of Van Asma and Gonzalez. In particular, Garlick does not teach or suggest applicants' claimed "data processing module" that "compresses" generated RGB image data taken by a shooting device to "G-R/B image data." Further, Garlick does not teach, disclose or suggest applicants' claimed "data conversion module" that interpolates the eliminated R component and B component, thereby converting the "G-R/B image data " into "reproduced RGB image data including all of the R, G, and B components with regard to each pixel."

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
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Respectfully submitted,

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